

Dr. Wolfgang Cieslik is new President of EURACOAL: unanimously elected as President of international coal association



Mr. Keisuke Sadamori, Director of Energy Markets and Security at the International Energy Agency (left), presents newly elected EURACOAL President, Dr. Wolfgang Cieslik (right), with the latest edition of the Agency's *Medium-Term Coal Market Report*.

Brussels (28 January 2016) – In a clear and unanimous vote last Monday, the Executive Committee of EURACOAL, with members from the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and other European countries, elected Dr. Wolfgang Cieslik, member of the Board of Management of STEAG GmbH, as President of the coal industry's international interest group. The period of office is one year. In a congratulatory speech following his election, the EURACOAL Secretary-General said, "Especially in this critical phase of power generation from coal, we need a strong voice in Europe, convincingly promoting the use of coal and lignite in the production of electricity and steel to the EU institutions in Brussels."

Cieslik, who is also Chairman of the Coal Importers' Association (VDKi), takes on the presidency from Dr. Zygmunt Łukaszczyk, Chairman of the Board of Katowicki Holding Węglowy S.A., one of the three largest Polish coal mining companies.

Cieslik started his period of office with a clear statement on the role of coal in power generation: "The Paris Agreement on climate first and foremost demands that we view energy policy in a new way: we have to think and act internationally more than ever before. The future indisputably belongs to energy from low-carbon sources. But coal is, and will for a long time remain, extremely important for security of supply and the future of energy in Europe. That is why we have to treat our coal mines, our secure coal imports and our coal-fired power plants with care."

Mr. Vladimír Budinský, representing the Czech Association of Employers in Mining Industry (ZSDNP) and Mr. Nigel Yaxley, representing the Association of UK Coal Importers and Producers (CoalImp), were both re-elected as Vice Presidents and are joined by newly elected Mr. Janusz Olszowski of the Polish Mining Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GIPH). Prof. Franz-Josef Wodopia, now representing the Coal Importers' Association (VDKi), steps down as a Vice President to chair the EURACOAL Market Committee.

After their executive meeting on Monday, EURACOAL members and invited guests appreciated a presentation of the International Energy Agency's *Medium-Term Coal Market Report 2015* by Mr. Keisuke Sadamori, Director of Energy Markets and Security at the Paris-based IEA. He said that coal would remain an important part of the global energy mix, showing an annual demand growth of 0.8% to 2020. Although coal-fired power generation in the EU will likely decline by 1.5% per year, this pales in comparison with the expected growth in Asia.

Coal prices are likely to remain under pressure, driven by global overcapacity and weaker-than-expected demand. Mr. Sadamori pointed to the strong price correlation between thermal coal and other industrial commodities (*i.e.* iron ore, copper and coking coal): the global economic slowdown being the main reason for the pressure on the prices of these commodities. While low prices might be good news for energy consumers, they leave many coal mining enterprises suffering losses, despite the massive operational cost savings made since 2012.

A lively Q&A touched on divestment and the sources of air pollution. Mr. Sadamori said that investment in coal-fired power plants would continue so long as demand existed. He also agreed that most air pollution in China, for example, comes from road transport and poorly equipped industrial boilers, rather than from coal-fired power plants. Low oil prices, low coal prices and low wholesale power prices mean that the prognosis for energy-sector investment is at an historic nadir. This should be of concern to all policy makers, because it points to future supply volatility once the global economy recovers, concluded the EURACOAL Secretary General as he thanked Director Sadamori for his coal-market insights.

Biographical notes:

Dr. Wolfgang CIESLIK, born in 1952 in Bornheim, studied fuel engineering at RWTH (Rheinisch-Westphalian University of Technology) in Aachen. After his doctorate, he began his professional career at Ruhrkohle AG, taking many positions there and rising to chairman of the management board in charge of distribution and marketing of all coal production. Currently, Dr. Cieslik is a board member at the German utility company STEAG GmbH and the current Chairman of the Coal Importers' Association (VDKi) – a EURACOAL member. STEAG is an international company operating nine coal-fired power plants in Germany and further ones in Turkey, Colombia and the Philippines. Dr. Cieslik is responsible for all the company's generation assets.

Mr. Vladimír BUDINSKÝ is Vice Chairman of the Board at ČEZ Distribuce and was previously the Board Member responsible for strategy and communications at Severoceske doly a.s., a Czech lignite mining company also in the ČEZ Group. Born in 1959, he graduated from the Czech Technical University in Prague and gained his MBA at the Masaryk Institute of Advanced Studies and Sheffield Hallam University. He has held many managerial positions in industry and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the UNECE Group of Experts for Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels. In 1995, he was appointed Transport Minister in the first Czech government.

Mr. Janusz OLSZOWSKI is President of the Polish Mining Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GIPH), a position that he has held since 1998. He graduated from the Faculty of Mining and Geology at the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in Kraków and completed post-graduate studies in aerology at the Academy before studying Administration and Management at the Faculty of Law in the University of Silesia. He is author of numerous publications, expert opinions, policy advice and papers presented at national and international conferences and symposia. He is also engaged in a number of commissions, parliamentary committees and other bodies such as the Committee on Occupational Safety in Mining at the Higher Mining Authority, the Scientific Council of the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, the Central Mining Institute and the Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Mr. Nigel YAXLEY is Managing Director at CoalImp, the Association of UK Coal Importers and Producers (CoalImp). He joined the then nationalised UK coal industry in 1977, after graduating in physics from Cambridge University. On the industry's privatisation in 1995, Mr. Yaxley joined UK Coal plc where he became Marketing Director. From 2005 to 2007, he was President of EURACOAL and has chaired the Association's Market Committee.

Prof. Dr. Franz-Josef WODOPIA was born in 1957 in Heidelberg, Germany. A qualified economist, he first held various posts in the fields of energy and science and then became Professor at the University of Applied Sciences Georg Agricola in Bochum, Germany. At the Mining, Chemical and Energy Industrial Union (IG BCE), Prof. Wodopia headed the Mining and Energy Industries Department. In mid-2005, he became Managing Director of Gesamtverband Steinkohle (German Coal Association), a position he held until the end of 2015 when he was appointed Chief Executive of the Coal Importers' Association (VDKi) in Hamburg.

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President
Dr. Wolfgang Cieslik



Vice President
Mr. Nigel Yaxley



Vice President
Mr. Janusz Olszowski



Vice President
Mr. Vladimír Budinský

Note for editors:

- The European Association for Coal and Lignite (EURACOAL) represents the interests of coal producers, coal importers and coal users in Brussels. The Association has 33 members from 20 countries. As well as the recent *NGOs For Sale / ONGs à Vendre* report, the Association also publishes regular market reports and *Coal industry across Europe*, a detailed review of the European coal industry with sections on the world coal market and climate policy (www.euracoal.eu).

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